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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 8 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the protest note sent on 8 June 2004 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Buenos Aires concerning the recent modification introduced in the situation of the British military base in the Malvinas (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the present note and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, "Question of the Malvinas".

(*Signed*) César **Mayoral**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and wishes to state that the Argentine Government reiterates its rejection of the British occupation of the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and formally protests the recent upgrading of the British military base in the Malvinas.

The Argentine Government considers that the protested measure is in violation of General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls upon the two parties in the dispute to refrain from introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Argentine Government also believes that the expansion of the military occupation in the disputed area is incompatible with the letter and spirit of the provisional understandings under the sovereignty formula regarding practical aspects of the South Atlantic, particularly in relation to the implementation of measures aimed at building and strengthening mutual confidence.

The extension of the operational sphere of the aforementioned base to areas outside the disputed area aggravates the aforementioned situation and in no way contributes towards the maintenance of peace and security.

The Argentine Government once again reaffirms its legitimate rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which form an integral part of its national territory.

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.